

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER PARKING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1747) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize the design and construction of additions to the parking garage and certain site improvements, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1747

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "John F. Kennedy Center Parking Improvement Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. PARKING GARAGE ADDITIONS AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 3 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76i) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through "The Board" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 3. JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Board"; and
(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) PARKING GARAGE ADDITIONS AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Substantially in accordance with the plan entitled 'Site Master Plan—Drawing Number 1997-2 April 29, 1997,' and map number NCR 844/82571, the Board may design and construct—

"(A) an addition to the parking garage at each of the north and south ends of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and

"(B) site improvement and modifications.

"(2) AVAILABILITY.—The plan shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Secretary of the Center.

"(3) LIMITATION ON USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—No appropriated funds may be used to pay the costs (including the repayment of obligations incurred to finance costs) of—

"(A) the design and construction of an addition to the parking garage authorized under paragraph (1)(A);

"(B) the design and construction of site improvements and modifications authorized under paragraph (1)(B) that the Board specifically designates will be financed using sources other than appropriated funds; or

"(C) any project to acquire large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater, or to produce an interpretive film, that the Board specifically designates will be financed using sources other than appropriated funds."

SEC. 3. PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR ACCESS.

(a) DUTIES OF THE BOARD.—Section 4(a)(1) of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76j(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (G);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (H) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(I) ensure that safe and convenient access to the site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is provided for pedestrians and vehicles."

(b) POWERS OF THE BOARD.—Section 5 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 76k) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR ACCESS.—Subject to approval of the Secretary of the Interior under section 4(a)(2)(F), the Board shall develop plans and carry out projects to improve pedestrian and vehicular access to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts."

SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF BUILDING AND SITE.

Section 13 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76s) and section 9(3) of the Act of October 24, 1951 (40 U.S.C. 193v), are each amended by inserting after "numbered 844/82563, and dated April 20, 1994" the following: "(as amended by the map entitled 'Transfer of John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts', numbered 844/82563A and dated May 22, 1997)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM].

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1747, as amended, the John F. Kennedy Center Parking Improvement Act of 1997, authorizes the design and construction of additions to the parking garage, site improvements and certain improvements to the interpretive film theater at the Kennedy Center.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is unique in that the language prohibits the use of appropriated funds for the garage expansion, and for projects that involve the purchase of large-screen format equipment and the production of an interpretive film, as the Board of Trustees designates. The Subcommittee on Public Buildings amended the bill to clarify the language on the theatre project to insure that no appropriated funds would be used for this project, as designated by the Board again, and the garage expansion and this theater projects will be financed through the assurance of industrial revenue bonds. The Board expects to issue bonds in a manner of approximately \$40 million for these projects. Proceeds from garage operation and the film presentation will be used to pay the bonds.

Additionally, the bill authorizes the Board to develop and execute plans to improve pedestrian and vehicle access to the Kennedy Center. In addition to improving the public access, this enhancement will improve security of the site and some other improvement. Previously appropriated funds will be used to finance these projects, by the way.

Mr. Speaker, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is a national Presidential monument and a living memorial. It receives over 4 million visitors annually. These improvements to the Kennedy Center are needed and long overdue. They will not only enhance the appeal of the Kennedy Center, but also improve this accessibility and security for the visitors. Most importantly, the garage enlargement project will not be, will not be at the taxpayers' expense.

I support H.R. 1748 and urge my colleagues to pass the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], our ranking member and an individual who has helped the Ken-

nedy Center as much as anybody in the history of this Congress.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] for yielding this time to me, and I want to compliment him and the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] on moving this legislation forward expeditiously and especially the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER] for moving the bill to the floor, actually, moving it through full committee and then to the floor very expeditiously, recognizing the need that the John F. Kennedy Center has to proceed with the improvements that will be made possible by this legislation.

The John F. Kennedy Center is America's national cultural center. It is a performing arts center, it is a world class cultural center, it is also a Presidential memorial. It stands out as America's tribute to the arts which the late President Kennedy featured so prominently in his years as President of the United States. It was during his tenure that I think the arts really got the national recognition and were paid the tribute that the arts deserve in a democratic society.

The Kennedy Center itself has achieved national and international stature and acclaim. Every year the Kennedy Center honors program is watched on television nationwide, and, with a full house, the honors program attracts the President, the Cabinet, the leadership of both the House and Senate because it pays such justly deserved tribute to those who have made their mark for all time in our society in the performing arts.

But enjoying the Kennedy Center has become more a travail than an enjoyment. The most often voiced complaint about attendance at Kennedy Center events is inability to get from parking to one's seat in time for the start of the performance. This legislation will make it possible for the Kennedy Center, without use of public funds, to undertake the renovations, add the parking, and make the traffic pattern changes necessary to move people expeditiously from parking to their seats before the performance begins. In addition, this legislation, with other funds that the Congress authorized and appropriated in the 104th Congress, will make the necessary changes to provide security that all realized the Center needs, as expressed in the counterterrorism legislation that we enacted in the 104th Congress. Those counterterrorism funds will enable the Kennedy Center to change traffic circulation in ways that will make it possible for the Center to be more secure and to greatly minimize the possibility which exists, tragically, in our society, of a terrorist attack. That, of course, is a matter that must be high on the minds of all of the security entities in the Federal Government during the Kennedy Center honors performance when the President, the Vice President, the Speaker, the majority leader

of the Senate are all present, as are numerous Members of both the House and Senate and Cabinet officers, as well as members of the Supreme Court.

So these changes will greatly improve the security of the Kennedy Center, but most important improve access to circulation around and parking for patrons of the Kennedy Center.

Again I want to emphasize that the cost of construction will be financed by industrial revenue bonds repaid by charges upon those using the Kennedy Center; the construction will not be done at public cost, but this authorization will give the Kennedy Center the means that an entity of this national and international stature requires to continue to be accessible by people of all walks of life to this national center for the performing arts.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, and I would like to commend the Chairman of the Board of the Kennedy Center, Jim Johnson; the President of the Kennedy Center, Larry Wilker, and I want to commend them because no taxpayer money will be used in the innovative financing scheme that will, in fact, provide for adequate parking and reasonable traffic flow that is so very much needed there, and similar to most urban entities, our National Center for the Performing Arts at Kennedy Center needs adequate parking to continue to attract and to serve the many patrons that attend to enjoy their outstanding performances.

So I think it is important to note that the cost of the construction will not be borne again, to state that, by the taxpayer, but financed through privately placed bonds.

So with that I would like to also thank Rick Barnett and Susan Britta, the staffs of both the Democrats and Republicans, for helping us with this matter, and I believe that this will be a great help to the Kennedy Center.

Mr. Speaker, having no other requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1747, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material on H.R. 1747, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS EXPANSION

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 985) to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within Arapaho and White River National Forests, Colorado, to include the lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 985

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SLATE CREEK ADDITION TO EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS, ARAPAHO AND WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FORESTS, COLORADO.

(A) SLATE CREEK ADDITION.—If the parcel of land described in subsection (b) is conveyed to the United States on or before December 31, 2000, the parcel shall be included in, and managed as part of, the Eagles Nest Wilderness designated by Public Law 94-352 (90 Stat. 870; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note). Upon conveyance of the parcel, the boundary of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is adjusted to include the parcel.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF ADDITION.—The parcel referred to in subsection (a) is generally depicted on a map entitled "Slate Creek Addition-Eagles Nest Wilderness", dated February 1997, which shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Forest Supervisor of the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado. The parcel comprises approximately 160 acres in Summit County, Colorado, adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH].

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 985, the bill introduced by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS], provides expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area within the Arapaho and White River National Forests in Colorado to include lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States.

I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS], as well as the gentleman from New York [Mr. HINCHEY], subcommittee ranking member, and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] for their cooperation with the passage of this measure.

This legislation provides for a 160-acre Slate Creek parcel in Summit County, CO to be added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness and administered as part of the wilderness area if the land is acquired by the United States within the next 4 years.

The Slate Creek parcel is proposed for acquisition by the United States in a land exchange. However, the current owners are unwilling to convey the land unless it is added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area and permanently managed as wilderness. Since the Slate Creek parcel is surrounded on three sides by the Eagles Nest Wilderness area, it only makes sense that it be made part of the area if the land is acquired by the United States.

This legislation is noncontroversial, and I urge support for this measure which enjoys the support of the Summit County Board of Commissioners, the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council, the Wilderness Land Trust and a number of other interested parties.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and certainly compliment my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS], for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. I also want to commend the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH], for her leadership and management of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as explained by the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the addition of 160 acres to the Eagle's Nest Wilderness within the Arapaho and White River National Forests in Colorado. These lands, which are known as the Slate Creek Parcel, are currently privately owned, and the owners are unwilling to convey the lands to the Forest Service unless they are permanently protected as wilderness.

Accordingly, the bill provides that when these lands are acquired by the Forest Service they will be included in the wilderness. The Forest Service agrees that these are suitable lands for wilderness and have testified in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a situation where there are willing sellers who believe that the highest and best use of their property is for public conservation purposes. This situation is duplicated in many places across our Nation and is one of the primary reasons that Democrats on the Committee on Resources have championed expanded use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisitions.

I want to thank the owners of the Slate Creek parcel for their conservation interests, and I compliment the